A National Apical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secreatry to formulate a nation-wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

Action Plan to Contain Population Boom

1125. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the aditorial which appeared in the Hindustan Times of January 21, 1997, captioned "Big Bang ahead";

(b) if so, how far Government's assessment of the aconomic situation in the country agrees with the press report that "the population boom will make a nonsense of India's efforts for rapid industrial growth and for establishing a self reliant economy";

(c) whether any action plan is proposed to be drawn in the Ninth Five Year Plan, to contain population boom affectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The inter-relationship between population and development is well recognised and therefore population programme is given a high priority. The population programme in India is a voluntary programme. It has averted nearly 197 million births, led to significant reductions in Birth Rate, Death Rate and infant mortality rate. The current focus of the programme is on improvement in quality of services. In the IXth plan, greater attention is proposed to be given to district which are lagging being.

Prevalence of Typhoid in Country

1126. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Typhoid has raised its ugly head in our country;

(b) if so, what is the latest incidence and prevalance of Typhoid in India;

(c) whether Typhoid will be included in the mass immunization programme; and

(d) what other steps are being taken to control typhoid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) The available data do not suggest that Enteric Fever (a broad term which includes Typhoid) cases are increasing in the country. As per the provisional data for the year 1996, a total number of 1,67,681 Enteric Fever cases were reported in the country.

(c) and (d) At present, Typhoid Vaccine is not include in the Mass Immunization Programme for the reason that the currently available Typhoid Vaccine do not give high degree of protection in all age groups and the immunity is not long-lasting.

The current Government efforts concentrate on:—

(i) Improvement of water supply and sanitation both in Urban and rural areas;

(ii) An IEC Plan to educate the general public in regard to:

A. Purification of water at home.

B. Improvement in and maintenance of a high level of personal hygiene.

Anti-poor bias In Health Care

1127. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN
SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the